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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT PAROLE
FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER OF HOMELESS SHELTER DIRECTOR
Defendant Shot At Victim As She Tried to Escape Following Sexual Abuse**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to life in prison for the first-degree Murder of the director of a homeless shelter in which he formerly resided.

District Attorney Clark said, "This was a heart-wrenching case that shocked our community. The victim, a mother of two children, had come to the Bronx from her native Spain in the hope of helping the neediest population. The defendant brutally murdered her and callously left her body on the street. He will now spend the rest of his life behind bars, never to walk our streets again. I hope this will bring a measure of justice to the victim's family."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, West Spruill, 41, was sentenced today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Margaret Clancy to life in prison without parole for first-degree Murder. He also received two sentences of 15 years followed by five years post-release supervision to run concurrently for two counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. He was convicted by a jury on May 24, 2017 after a four-and-a-half week trial.

According to trial testimony, on April 27, 2015, Spruill sexually abused Ana Charle, 36, inside her vehicle, causing her to flee naked as her assailant chased after her with a gun. Spruill then fired at her multiple times, causing her death. Charle's car was found two blocks from where she had originally parked it to go to work at the Bronx Boulevard Men's Shelter, where Spruill had resided until early January, 2015. Spruill fled the scene on foot and was apprehended minutes later. DNA found on the victim was linked to the defendant.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney and Trial Counsel Astrid Borgstedt and Assistant District Attorney Kathleen Baer, both of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau under the overall supervision of Joseph Muroff, Chief of the Special Victims Division. District Attorney Clark thanked the police officers and detectives of the 47th Precinct, the NYPD Crime Lab and Chief Medical Examiner's Office for their assistance.